Appl. No. 10/770,943
Amdt. dated May 8, 2008
Reply to Office Action of February 25, 2008

<u>Remarks</u>

The present amendment responds to the final Official Action dated <u>February 25, 2008</u>. The Official Action objected to claims 3, 4, 9, and 13 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10-12, and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Gourraud et al. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0006623 (Gourraud) and Kay et al. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0103917 (Kay). This ground of rejection is addressed below.

Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been rewritten in independent form. All of the limitations of claims 2 and 3 have been added to claim 1. All of the limitations of claim 9 have been added to claim 6. All of the limitations of claim 13 have been added to claim 11. As claims 3, 9, and 13 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, claims 1, 6, and 11 are now in order for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 9, and 13 have been canceled. Independent claims 15 and 17 have also been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 9 and it is submitted that these claims are now also in order for allowance. Claims 4 and 16 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. Claims 1, 4-8, 10-12, and 14-17 are presently pending.

<u>The Art Rejections</u>

Applicants do not acquiesce in the analysis of Gourraud and Kay made by the Official Action and respectfully traverse the Official Action's analysis underlying its rejections.

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However, the applicants' disagreement with the Examiner is moot in light of the present

amendments which are believed to place this case in order for allowance.

In this regard, the only remaining question to be addressed relates to claims 15 and 17

which have been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 9 and are believed to be

allowable as so amended. More particularly, the step of "responding to a selected message

request received in the network resident component from the network-resident software

application" of claim 15 has been amended to include the limitation of dependent claim 9, with

the phrase "wherein the message request" of claim 9 changed to "wherein the selected message

request", as follows:

> "responding receiving to a selected message request received in the
> network-resident component from the network-resident software application,
> wherein the selected message request from the network resident software
> application further comprises a query type, query strings to be displayed, a target
> user name parameter for the instant messaging name of the user device, and a
> source user name parameter supplied by the network-resident component to
> specify an arbitrary source"

Also, the step of "responding to a selected message request in the pseudodevice from the

network-resident software application" of claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations

of dependent claim 9, with the phrases "wherein the message request" and "the network-resident

component" of claim 9 changed to "wherein the selected message request" and "the

pseudodevice", respectively, as follows:

> "responding receiving to a selected message request in the pseudodevice
> from the network-resident software application, wherein the selected message
> request from the network resident software application further comprises a query
> type, query strings to be displayed, a target user name parameter for the instant

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messaging name of the user device, and a source user name parameter supplied by the pseudodevice to specify an arbitrary source"
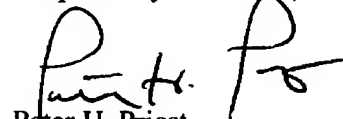
Claims 15 and 17 distinguish from Gourraud and Kay in a similar manner to amended

claims 6 and 11 previously indicated to be allowable as presently amended.

Since the dependent claims depend from and contain all the limitations of their

corresponding base claim, the dependent claims distinguish from the references in the same

manner as the base claims and are in order for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied

references, withdrawal of the present rejection and prompt allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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